



OFFICE OF LT. GOVERNOR BECKY SKILLMAN

In Case You Missed It...

Lt. Gov. Skillman Touts Major Moves to Equipment Manufacturers and Sellers

On September 16, Lt. Governor Becky Skillman spoke at the Associated Equipment Distributors annual meeting in Chicago. She discussed Major Moves, the state's efficient management of stimulus dollars, and Indiana's overall business climate. Last week, "Better Roads" columnist Mike Anderson wrote, "For folks who collectively have weathered the toughest business climate of their lives, [Lt. Gov. Skillman's] message about what's happening in her state, Indiana, was particularly appetizing."

Skillman shared with attendees of the Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) Executive Forum in Chicago how, while road work has sputtered in many of their home states, Indiana has plowed right along with Major Moves, the 10-year, multi-billion-dollar program funded by the long-term lease of the Indiana Toll Road. "It's all funded with no tax increases, with no borrowing, with no financial smoke and mirrors," she said, noting the original plan of 104 new highway corridors and 1,600 miles by 2015 has actually accelerated to the point where most projects will be complete in 2012. "And these are not financed on the backs of our children and our grandchildren."

"We have invested more than \$5 billion in new construction, just since 2006, and Indiana has not borrowed any money for roads since 2004." The latter was one year before the current Indiana gubernatorial team fronted by Gov. Mitch Daniels took over. "When we came to office in 2005," the AED audience heard from Lt. Gov. Skillman, "you know we faced essentially the same multi-billion-dollar construction deficit that many states still face today...."

"We would just encourage states to be very creative and innovative, and try to become as sufficient as they can without relying too much on Congress," she later told Better Roads.... "The fact is we came into office clearly understanding that jobs and the economy were our first priority, and we know that modern infrastructure is key to attracting businesses to our state."

"As part of the deal to ensure that we can build roads well into the future, we created the Highway Next Generation Trust Fund," said Lt. Gov. Skillman. "We set aside \$500 million from the proceeds of the lease, and that money including all the interest is untouchable until the beginning of next year. That's when only the interest will be transferred over to the Highway Construction Fund."

Noteworthy, too, the number of "shovel-ready" projects under Major Moves allowed Indiana to become the first state to completely distribute its federal Stimulus transportation funds. "You might say," said Lt. Gov. Skillman, "that Major Moves was a Stimulus package before that term ever became a dirty word in politics."

For Anderson's full article, visit <http://www.betterroads.com/mike-andersons-american-iron-6/>

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